

Message

From: ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]
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To: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: ECOS Welcomes New Illinois Member, Shutdown Talks Continue, & More

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Kim to Reprise Director Role at Illinois EPA

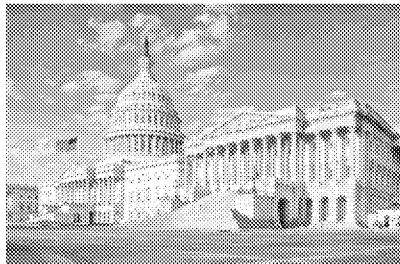


Last week, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker announced that John Kim will return to the position of Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), succeeding Alec Messina. John has served IEPA in many capacities under both Democratic and Republican administrations, including as Director and Interim Director, and most recently, Chief Legal Counsel.

He also has worked as Acting General Counsel at the Illinois Department of Agriculture, as Assistant Attorney General of Illinois, and as General Counsel to the Midwest Environmental Enforcement Association. He earned his Juris Doctor from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. [Parisien]

Lawmakers Resume Negotiations as Shutdown Continues

With the partial federal government shutdown entering its fifth week, Senate leaders including Mitch McConnell



(R-KY) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) have begun their most concerted round of negotiations yet. However, there are still few signs that a compromise to reopen the government is reachable anytime soon. On January 24, the Senate voted down two proposals -- one supported by President Trump with \$5.7B for a border wall and another favored by Democrats that would open the government temporarily while border security negotiations ensue. President Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have also publicly exchanged ideas to end the shutdown but remain entrenched over the issue of specific new appropriations to fund a border wall.

If your state agency is experiencing any issues related to cash flow or operations due to the federal government shutdown, please contact [Beth Graves](#) of ECOS. [McAleer]

ECOS Spring Meeting

ECOS Issues New Draft Agenda for Spring Meeting

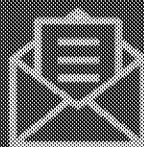
Register for Meeting and Reserve at Hotel Now at Best Rates



ECOS today issued a new [draft agenda](#) for our action-packed April 8-10 Spring Meeting in Crystal City, Virginia. Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE) is confirmed for a keynote on his priorities for the new session, and other invited keynoters include fellow Senate EPW Member John Boozman (R-AR), Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, and U.S. EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler.

[Register](#) today for a firsthand look at *Partnership in Action: Advancing Collaboration, Certainty, & Confidence*! Having secured a seat at the table through the ECOS Cooperative Federalism 2.0 initiative, states now are working with U.S. EPA and other federal partners to deepen shared decision-making, shared problem-solving, and shared programmatic development. In the spirit of collaboration, the gathering also will include a dinner reception at the Canadian Embassy.

See more meeting information, including the draft agenda and sponsorship opportunities, [here](#). Register by **March 1** to take advantage of the early bird rate, and reserve at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel while supply lasts to secure the special ECOS rates of \$251 and \$269. [Parisien]



Reminder: ECOS Offices to Move February 1

On February 1, the ECOS offices will move from Capitol Hill to a location near U.S. EPA. Please jot down the new ECOS address for mailing purposes or to stop by and visit our new space:

ECOS
1250 H Street, NW Suite 850
Washington, DC 20005



State News You Can Use

[Idaho Touts 2018 Accomplishments via YouTube Video](#)

[Maryland Proposes Funding to Support Bay, Other
Environmental Initiatives](#)

District of Columbia Sets All-Renewable Energy Target for 2032

Need-to-Know News in Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants/PFAS & Shale Gas Caucus

U.S. House Forms Bipartisan PFAS Task Force

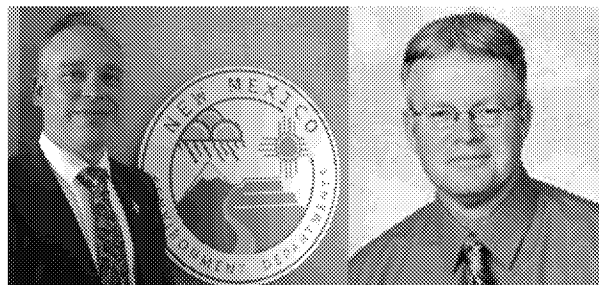
Area of Focus: Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

House lawmakers this week announced the formation of a bipartisan task force to push U.S. EPA and other agencies to address PFAS contamination. The Congressional PFAS Task Force is currently comprised of 13 Democrats and 7 Republicans from states where PFAS has emerged as a major issue, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, and Ohio.

The task force intends to bring PFAS cleanup to the forefront of the House agenda to educate other lawmakers about the issue; craft legislation; meet with leadership, committee chairs, and ranking members; and advocate for more robust funding through federal appropriations. [Longworth]

ECOS Shale Gas Caucus Welcomes Kenney of New Mexico as Co-Chair

Area of Focus: Shale Gas Caucus



*Shale Gas Caucus Co-Chairs
Jim Kenney (Left) and Dave Glatt (Right)*

The ECOS Shale Gas Caucus (SGC) is pleased to welcome Jim Kenney of New Mexico as its new Co-Chair. Jim, who will work alongside Co-Chair Dave Glatt of North Dakota, succeeds Martha Rudolph of Colorado, who retired earlier this month.

In 2019, the SGC will continue its discussions of produced water, methane, and alternative compliance pathways. On April 8 at the ECOS Spring Meeting, the group will discuss its joint white paper with the Environmental Defense Fund on pathways for alternative compliance for promising methane leak detection and repair technologies.

A full meeting and webinar schedule will be announced soon. To provide input or join the caucus (open to any interested state and federal representatives), contact [Lia Parisien](#) of ECOS. [Parisien]

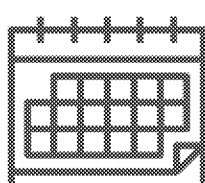
Opportunities

Nominations Sought for Small Business Leadership Awards

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program/Small Business Ombudsman (SBEAP/SBO) National Steering Committee (NSC) Awards are the states' premier awards for recognizing outstanding environmental leadership among small businesses and small business assistance providers. Nominations will be accepted through **February 28** for the 2019 round.

The SBEAP/SBP group has worked with ECOS subcommittees on joint efforts to support compliance assistance, and for this reason it would appreciate state input on nominations. The awards recognize small businesses, SBEAP/SBO programs or individuals, and trade associations or other business assistance providers who have made significant contributions to protecting the environment.

More information is available [here](#). [Lopez]



Upcoming Events

ITRC on Connecting the Science to Managing LNAPL Sites

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) will hold the final part of a three-part online training course on Connecting the Science to Managing LNAPL Sites on **January 29 at 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern.**

The newly updated Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (LNAPLs) course series is based on the ITRC guidance [LNAPL Site Management: LCSM Evolution, Decision Process, and Remedial Technologies](#). Part 3 teaches participants the importance of informed remedial technology selection and appropriate technology application.

Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]

U.S. EPA on PFAS Treatment of Small Systems

U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development will host its small systems monthly webinar on **January 29 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern** to discuss treatment technologies for

removing chemicals of concern, specifically PFAS, cyanotoxins, perchlorate, and 1,4 dioxane. More information on the webinar and registration is [here](#). [Longsworth]

U.S. EPA & Army on WOTUS

Due to the continued federal government shutdown, U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers postponed a planned Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) public webcast and in-person meeting in Kansas City, Kansas, formerly scheduled for **January 10** and **January 22-23**, respectively. The agencies are still scheduled to host several opportunities for state input on the proposed WOTUS rule as part of the public review process. The focus of the state discussion sessions will be to hear the input of state officials on the proposed new definition and discuss implementation considerations.

U.S. EPA and the Army have not yet postponed half-day discussion forums for state officials at the following locations: Santa Fe, New Mexico, on **February 6**; and Savannah, Georgia, on **February 20**. State officials who would like to attend any of these meetings should send an email to [this address](#) to receive meeting details and registration information. The state meetings will coincide with similar meetings with tribal representatives.

EPA and the Army plan to seek additional opportunities to engage with states as the public comment period progresses. [Piper]

ITRC on Characterization and Remediation of Fractured Rock

ITRC will hold an online training course on Characterization and Remediation of Fractured Rock on **January 31 at 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern**.

After participating in this training course, you will be able to:

- Use ITRC's [Fractured Rock Document](#) to guide your decision making
- Develop quality Conceptual Site Models (CSMs) for fractured rock sites
- Set realistic remedial objectives
- Select the best remedial options
- Monitor remedial progress and assess results

- Value an interdisciplinary site team approach to bring collective expertise to improve decision-making and to have confidence when going beyond containment and monitoring to actually remediating fractured rock sites

Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]

IMERC on Mercury-Added Products

The [Interstate Mercury Education & Reduction Clearinghouse](#) will host a free webinar on **February 5 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern** to review analysis of the latest mercury-added product data reported through its e-filing system. The webinar will center on the latest on mercury use in major product categories.

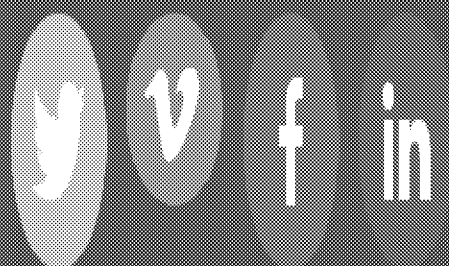
Register [here](#). [Hanson]

ITRC on Issues and Options in Human Health Risk Assessment

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) will hold an online training course on Issues and Options in Human Health Risk Assessment on **February 7 at 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern**.

Regulatory project managers and decision makers may not have specific guidance when alternative approaches, scenarios, and parameters are proposed for site-specific risk assessments, and are faced with difficult technical issues when evaluating these site-specific risk assessments. This training course and [associated guidance document](#) are resources for evaluating alternatives.

Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]



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